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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Oranienburg

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EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 1 to 18 May 1953

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 17 June 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 18 May 1953, the west section of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, including the former Panzerschule, Oranienburg, was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery or motor transport insignia; blue-bordered black epaulets, black-bordered black epaulets, and black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 11 May, two T-34 tanks were seen in the training area north of the quarters, and trucks [redacted] were seen at driving practice in the area west of the quarters. At about 4 p.m. on 11 May, SP guns [redacted] were entrained at the Oranienburg railroad station. [redacted] not able to observe their departure. On 16 May, four tanks were in front of building No 149, and billeting equipment was carried in the yard from buildings Nos 82 and 150. Thirty-four soldiers armed with carbines and submachine guns entered the installation through gate No 1. From 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on 18 May, three tanks, [redacted] were seen in the training area north of the billeting area, engaged in driving school practices. 1

2. Between 8 and 15 May, [redacted] that section of the Weisse Stadt settlement in Oranienburg occupied by the Soviet Army, was occupied by only a few Soviet soldiers and the garages were vacant. Work was still ² under way in building No 5, which was scheduled to be completed by 20 May. 2

3. Between 1 and 7 May, the Soviet-occupied section of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp was occupied as previously. Almost daily, 4 to 5 trucks, loaded with billeting equipment, construction material and iron goods, left the billeting area, proceeding toward Sachsenhausen. [redacted] they went to Vogelsang. [redacted] and truck [redacted] with trailers and 2 field kitchens. On 7 May, Major Picheniyen (fmu) and Lieutenant Colonel Vadelkov (fmu) were observed on Bernauer Allee. On 15 May, Major Kabanov (Phonetical spelling) (fmu), supply officer of the driving school unit, was observed in the billeting area. Between 8 and 15 May, [redacted] buildings Nos 72, 74, 76 and 78 and the apartment houses on roads Nos 1 and 2 were not lighted at dusk. Section 2 B of the camp was lighted as previously by high-suspended strong-powered lamps. At about

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4:40 p.m. on 8 May, T-34 tanks [redacted] were entrained at the Cranienburg freight station. On 9 May, two T-34s, via the Lehnitz lock, went toward Schmachtenhagen. No other tanks at driving practice were observed. On several days, two green T-34 tanks [redacted] were seen in front of building No 149 and, nearby, about 140 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed at aiming practice. Trucks of the driving school unit seen en route from and to the town [redacted]

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[redacted] 4. From 2 to 11 May, the Soviet-occupied section of the Weisse Stadt restricted area was occupied as previously. On 11 May, Major Mashutin (fmu) and three EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets left Weisse Stadt on truck [redacted] [redacted] toward Vogelsang. In the morning of 6 May, the Kech officer from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, who also was deputy of Vazelenko, came for a discussion on calculations for buildings Nos 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. [redacted] these buildings would be completed in late September 1953, and concluded that some units, which previously were stationed in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, after their return from the summer training, would be transferred to the Weisse Stadt restricted area.²

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5. On 11 May, a conference was held in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, attended by Major Kabanov (phonetical spelling) (fmu), supply officer of the driving school unit Markin; Major Picheniyen (fmu); and the commanding officer of the driving school unit, a lieutenant colonel, whose name could not be identified. [redacted] calculations have to be prepared for the construction of a kitchen and a dining room in building No 3 in section No 2A for the supply officer of the tank training unit Picheniyen; and for the reconditioning of building No 16 in section No 2D, and for three 200-liter boilers to be newly installed for Major Kabanov (fmu), supply officer of the driving school unit.¹

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6. On 8 May, seven T-34 tanks, [redacted] were seen on Bernauer Allee, coming from Berliner Strasse and proceeding toward the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

7. A local resident stated that, since 1 May, the troops stationed at the MVD komendatura on Schuetzen Strasse, Oranienburg, had been increased by 100 men. Unusually many troops with green cap ribbons were seen in the streets of Oranienburg.¹

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1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the west section of the SS Kaserne and the Sachsenhausen concentration camp can be carried occupied as previously by elements of the unidentified tank training battalion and the unidentified motor transport battalion of the 25th Tank Div until mid-May. [redacted] The strength figures given [redacted] paragraph 1 are fairly definitely believed to be overestimated. [redacted] the entraining involved tanks of the unidentified tank training battalion, probably bound for Templin. Lieutenant Colonel Vadelkov (fmu), probably commanding officer, and Major Picheniyen (fmu), supply officer of the battalion, have been known previously.

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Lieutenant Colonel Markin (fmu) belongs to the unidentified motor transport battalion of the division. The buildings are numbered to a sketch [redacted]
[redacted]. As buildings of the abovementioned battalions are scheduled to be reconditioned, it appears that these troops do not yet transfer to Templin.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Major Mashutin (fmu), who is known from previous reports, is commanding officer of a rear detail of an unidentified headquarters which remained in the Weisse Stadt restricted area. [redacted] 25X1 It cannot yet be determined for which troops the buildings were reconditioned.

[redacted] Vazelenko (fmu) was supply officer at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp until August 1952.

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